

Dear FCC,

Amateur Radio operators have never been great in number. There are always technically competent persons who might become amateurs, but for whatever reason just aren't interested in Amateur Radio. Those who are interested just do what it takes to get licensed and upgrade. So, why then is it so important that the Morse code be eliminated from amateur license tests? Most of the filed no-code comments say, "Get rid of the code and GIVE me HF" or words to that effect. Is that the level to which the Amateur Radio service is to be reduced? The kind where there's no skill involved, no challenge, no pride? Where privileges are just handed out after so much petitioning to the FCC? Even Boy Scouts learn the Morse code at 5 words per minute. It's not that hard.

Further, the Morse code has been a part of ham radio from the beginning. It is what distinguishes Amateur Radio operators from other spectrum users. For better or worse, it is the identity of Amateur Radio. Far from being archaic and outmoded, it is still widely used today. Every HF amateur transceiver has a CW position on it, and some are dedicated to CW. Let's keep the Morse code for Amateur Radio license testing. It is the heritage of the Amateur Radio service. Please reinstate graduated Morse code tests for amateur licensing.

Thank you,

Dwayne J. Sparks, AK4P
ARRL Volunteer Examiner